

6 suspected Americans held in Iraq

U.S. forces also detain 2 claiming to be British

BY TAREK AL-ISSAWI

The Associated Press

ABU GHRAIB, Iraq — Six people claiming to be Americans and two who say they are British are in U.S. custody on suspicion of involvement in attacks on coalition forces, an American general said Tuesday. It marked the first report of the possible involvement of Westerners in the insurrection against the U.S.-led occupation.

Brig. Gen. Janis Karpinski, who is in charge of coalition detention centers in Iraq, said the alleged Americans and Britons were considered security detainees, meaning they were suspected of involvement in guerrilla attacks. She did not identify the purported Westerners but said they were being interrogated by military intelligence in Baghdad.

"We actually do have six who are claiming to be Americans, two who are claiming to be from the U.K.

We're continuing the interviewing process. The details become sketchy and their story changes," said Karpinski.

She said that there were "several ... hundred third-country nationals in custody."

When pressed for details about those being held, she declined to give any other information.

"We're not trying to withhold information from you. Some information remains classified for security reasons," Karpinski said during a tour of Abu Ghraib prison, where Saddam Hussein locked up his political opponents.

At a Washington news briefing, Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld was asked about the Western captives and said it was taking time to sort out from where foreign prisoners had come.

"The truth is that the folks that we've scooped up have, on a number of occasions, multiple identifications from different countries. They're quite skilled at confusing people as to what their real nationality is

or where they came from or what they're doing. And it takes a little time to sort those things out," Rumsfeld said.

If Westerners are actively involved in the resistance, it would deepen confusion about what groups are involved. Initially, the guerrilla fighters were thought to be Saddam loyalists but in recent weeks, U.S. officials have said they are being joined by foreign fighters.

The revelation, the first since the U.S.-led invasion of Iraq, recalls the capture of U.S. citizen John Walker Lindh in Afghanistan while fighting alongside Taliban and al-Qaida fighters after the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks.

Lindh was sentenced last year to 20 years in prison after pleading guilty to supplying services to the ousted Taliban.

American troops in Afghanistan also captured U.S.-born Yaser Esam Hamdi, who was flown to the U.S. Navy base at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, and held there for several months until it was discovered he was born in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. He is being held in a naval brig in Norfolk, Va.

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Afghan villages ask for more than troops can deliver

BY RICK EMERT

Stars and Stripes

KANDAHAR, Afghanistan — The convoy can be seen coming from miles away across the flat, sandy, arid land of Kandahar. The four Humvees churn up monstrous clouds of dust that were picked up and carried off by the wind that sweeps the plains.

Before the vehicles carrying the psychological operations and civil affairs teams and their military police escorts can park, children are outside the mud brick walls of the village, jumping excitedly and waving as if Santa himself had just parked his sleigh. Immediately they begin begging for pens, chocolate, even the GIS' watches.

But the youngsters aren't picky and are perfectly happy to settle for mine awareness posters, stickers and any other trinkets the soldiers will part with.

At the village of Abdul Hakim Jan Kalay, Monday was a typical day. While most of the children remain outside the village walls being entertained by the MP security team, the civil affairs and psychological operations teams meet with the village leader, Hakim Jan.

The meeting place is a patch of rugs laid neatly in the shade. The soldiers and villagers eat flat bread and sip green tea as they discuss the village's problems.

Staff Sgt. James Vestal, a team leader with the 486th Civil Affairs Battalion from Kandahar Airfield, asks Jan about the school, whether the villagers have found any unexploded ordnance, and if there have been any visitors in the area causing problems.

Through a translator, Jan says the village still needs help with many things.

"We feel we are helping," Vestal says, "because there's no Taliban here. Our soldiers are going out and trying to find those guys."

After about one hour of polite, friendly, but seemingly frustrating discussion, the concerns boil down to one major thing: The village needs a water

well. All Vestal can tell them is to coordinate through a nonprofit government organization for assistance.

The problem is that Abdul Hakim Jan Kalay is not the only village that needs a new well. In fact, most all of the 80 villages in the area do.

"Most villages around here need the same things: a school, a clinic and a water well," Vestal says. "I hear it every time; everybody needs that. They can't understand that it's not necessarily our job to build schools. I carry a rifle, not a hammer. We encourage them to work with NGOs so they can build their own school."

Prior to leaving, the psychological operations team hands out transistor radios that are solar-powered or can be wound up and don't require batteries. They hope the villagers will use them to listen to government-sponsored news broadcasts.

Then, it is on to the next village. Although the teams go out every day, they hit each of the villages in the area about once a month, says Spc. Janei Worley, of the 308th Tactical Psychological Operations Company based in Kandahar.

"[Sunday] was rough," Worley says. "We were driving and learned that a rocket had been fired from about 100 meters from the last village we were at. We couldn't go back that way to get to the base, so went a way we didn't know well."

As if the situation weren't bad enough, Worley's Humvee suffered a flat tire. With no spare, the team had to keep driving on the bad tire, with chunks of the tread flying off the vehicle.

"It's a wonder we made it back with that vehicle," she says.

The convoy has better luck Monday. After about a 30-minute drive on sandy roads, it pulls into Mir Afdzai Kalay, where, no surprise, the village needs a new well.

Since the villagers inside can't be interrupted from their work, the village leader, Mir Afdzai, and a few others come outside to greet the soldiers.

Afdzai doesn't like the answer he gets about his well, and asks if Vestal



RICK EMERT/Stars and Stripes

Spc. Janei Worley of the 308th Tactical Psychological Operations Company hands out anti-mine leaflets to children Monday in Abdul Hakim Jan Kalay, Afghanistan. Worley and others from her unit go on daily patrols to villages surrounding Kandahar.

could work with the NGO to get his village its well.

"NGOs don't always like working with us," Vestal tells him through a translator. "For instance, they may be doing immunizations for children and we show up and all the children run out to greet us. That conflicts with the work they are doing."

As he did in Abdul Hakim Jan Kalay, Vestal takes notes about Afdzai's concerns for a report. He or another team leader would be back in about a month to check on the status.

When it was time to leave Mir Afdzai

Kalay, Worley passes out more transistor radios. This visit, like so many others, doesn't seem to have resolved anything.

The village still won't have a well, and the soldiers leave feeling as though their efforts aren't appreciated. "Sometimes, the villagers think that we are not helping, because we aren't building anything," Vestal says. "What they don't realize is that the military is helping, because there are no Taliban here."

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Changing times mean new roles for reserves

BY CAROLYN THOMPSON

The Associated Press

NIAGARA FALLS, N.Y. — Two months after the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks, Tim Szymanski left his job as a suburban Buffalo police officer to help fight the war on terrorism.

Nearly two years later, the Cheektowaga police still juggle to cover the Air Force reservist's shifts.

In August, Tech Sgt. Don Miller enjoyed a welcome home parade after a four-month deployment in Iraq with the 914th Airlift Wing.

Two days later, the self-employed contractor learned he was leaving again.

Miller recalled the appealing "one weekend a month, two weeks in the summer" commitment the reserves touted when he became a citizen soldier in 1988.

"I just told my wife that they changed that now. A weekend a month and two weeks in the summer is how much we're home," the Vietnam veteran joked as he prepared again to ship out.

For the 174,403 reservists and National Guard members on active duty as of Sept. 10, the idea of being a part-time soldier no longer matches with reality. While past reservists could serve decades-long careers without ever being activated, today's troops face lengthy, often difficult and dangerous duty.

"We're not weekend warriors," said Lt. Col. Mark Murphy, who also redeployed with the 914th on Aug. 28, about two months after arriving home from a four-month deployment.

The war in Iraq and broader war on terrorism has thrust a heavy burden on the nation's part-time soldiers, who make up about half of the U.S. military, and they don't bear it alone. There are families and civilian employers left to fill unexpected gaps at home.

Since 9/11, about 300,000 of the 1.2 million members of the National Guard and reserves have been called on for a host of duties from cleaning up the World Trade Center site and patrolling airports at home to distributing food to Iraqi civilians, guarding government detainees in Cuba and patrolling in Baghdad and other world hot spots.

It has not always gone smoothly. An August report by the General Accounting Office blamed incompatible computer systems for the Pentagon's losing track of some reservists and keeping them on active duty longer than authorized.

Then came word last week from the Army that troops could be in Iraq a full 12 months, to the surprise of some who had thought the clock started ticking on one-year tours once they reached mobilization stations in the United States. The Army said the policy, though perhaps misunderstood, is not new.

But the frequent and long deployments are ultimately not stopping reservists from joining, Defense Department numbers through the end of June indicate. The National Guard is on target to meet recruiting goals for the fiscal year ending Sept. 30, spokesman Mark Allen said. The same is true for the reserves.

That's the good news. The bad news is concern that large numbers of current reservists could drop out of the military the first chance they get.

"Of course we're concerned," said Army Reserve spokesman Steven Stromvall, "and there are things we're trying to do to minimize that."

In the works are policies to give reservists a better idea of how often and how long they'll be deployed, Stromvall said.

Officials also are working on a restructuring to shift the burden from overused units.

Detained

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At least nine Britons are being detained in Guantanamo, where some 660 men from 42 countries are being held on suspicion of links to the Taliban or the al-Qaida terror network. None of them have been charged and some have been held for nearly two years without access to attorneys.

Lt. Col. Pamela Hart, a spokeswoman for the mission in Guantanamo, said Tuesday none of the detainees being held were captured in Iraq.

Meanwhile, U.S. troops of the 4th Infantry Division killed two Iraqis and wounded two others in a gunbattle late Monday outside an ammunition dump in Tikrit. Another man was captured and two others fled after the apparent attempt to loot the depot, division spokeswoman Maj. Josslyn Aberle said.

In addition to the gunbattle in Tikrit, U.S. officials said troops of the 4th Infantry Division carried out 242 patrols in three provinces late Monday, including 24 jointly with Iraqi security forces. Twenty-eight Iraqis were arrested.

They included two people taken prisoner in Samarra during a raid in which 13 sticks of plastic explosives were seized along with blasting caps and nine mortar rounds, officials said.

News tracker: What's new with old news

Nation

Media ownership rules: The Senate approved a resolution Tuesday to repeal media ownership rules critics say could lead to a wave of mergers and ultimately stifle diversity and local viewpoints in news and entertainment.

Defying a White House veto threat, the Senate voted 55-40 to undo changes to Federal Communications Commission regulations governing ownership of newspapers and television and radio stations.

The changes included allowing a single company to own TV stations reaching nearly half the nation's viewers and broadcast stations and a newspaper in the same area.

Farmer's protest: A tractor-driving North Carolina farmer whose one-man protest of federal farm policy last March created enormous traffic jams in the nation's capital is defending himself in court.

Dwight Watson, 50, who drove his tractor into a pond on the National Mall and sat there for two days while police sharpshooters kept him in their sights, is charged with making a false threat to use explosives and destroying government property. No explosives were found, although a practice grenade incapable of detonating was found inside the cab of Watson's tractor after he surrendered.

Downloading music: A U.S. appeals court wrestled with questions Tuesday over whether the music industry can use special copyright subpoenas in its campaign to track and sue computer users who download songs over the Internet.

Judge John Roberts of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia questioned whether the fact that copyrighted files were publicly accessible on someone's computer necessarily means the Internet user is illegally distributing those files.

Washington, D.C.-area sniper: Lawyers for sniper suspect Lee Boyd Malvo want prosecutors to provide additional details about DNA evidence found near the Bowie, Md., school where a 13-year-old boy was shot during last year's sniper spree.

The defense team argued in a court motion made public Tuesday that they need additional information about DNA evidence found on five cigarette butts, the barrel of a ball-point pen and a Price Club card found at the Tasker Middle School crime scene, where Iran Brown was seriously wounded Oct. 7.

Captive women: Lawyers for John Jamelske are asking that the 68-year-old convicted serial kidnapper and rapist be assigned to a special prison unit in the Adirondacks where high-profile convicts are often sent for their own protection.

Jamelske's attorneys recently filed memorandums with the court and state Department of Correctional Services requesting that Jamelske be placed in the Assessment and Program Preparation Unit.

The unit opened in the late 1970s to handle inmates at risk from other inmates and to prepare them for eventual return to the general population.

Jamelske was sentenced in July to 18 years to life in prison. He admitted keeping five girls and women as sex slaves between 1988 and 2003 in a concrete bunker he built under the back yard of his home.

Missing children: Manuel Gehring's lawyers said Tuesday they don't want police searching his van for evidence of the deaths of his two children.

The van recently was shipped to New Hampshire from California.

Prosecutors say it's a continuation of the search a judge allowed in that state, where Gehring was arrested in early July after a cross-country drive from Concord.

But defense lawyers believe the California search was illegal.

They said if permission to search the van is granted, it would violate Gehring's rights. They also said prosecutors haven't given any reasons to start a new search.

Police have told the court Gehring admitted he shot his daughter, Sarah, and son, Philip, in the van in southern New Hampshire and buried them somewhere off Interstate 80 in the Midwest.

Gehring has pleaded not guilty and is being held without bail.

World

French heat wave: The French government is setting aside \$45 million for elderly people weakened by this summer's heat wave and hospitals that struggled to cope with the crisis.

Half the funding will pay for at-home assistance for the aged returning home from hospitals; the other half will pay for extra hospital staff so ex-

hausted doctors and nurses can have some time off after the crisis.

The government has said 11,435 people died in the heat in early August, when temperatures soared to 104.

Guinea-Bissau coup: West African nations on Tuesday were pressuring Guinea-Bissau's new military ruler to return power to this impoverished country's deposed president — but a junta spokesman insisted the ouster was "irreversible."

West African officials led by Senegalese Foreign Minister Cheikh Tidiane Gadio flew into the capital, Bissau, on Monday and met into early morning Tuesday with members of a 25-member military committee set up to run the country after President Kumba Yala's removal in a bloodless coup Sunday.

SARS reappears: The world's first known SARS patient since the virus was brought under control in July has recovered and was discharged Tuesday, a Singapore health official said.

The 27-year-old lab researcher had been in isolation at Singapore's Communicable Diseases Center. He will remain quarantined at home for two weeks.

The man tested positive for severe acute respiratory syndrome last week, making Singapore the first country to report a case of the deadly flu-like illness since the World Health Organization declared SARS under control in July.

Swedish assassination: Police continued to receive tips but made no breakthroughs Tuesday in case of the stabbing death of Foreign Minister Anna Lindh, whose murder overshadowed the opening of Parliament and provoked calls for stricter security surrounding government officials.

Swedish tabloid Expressen reported that a man shown in widely-circulated pictures and sought for questioning had been arrested, but police denied the report.

At the Riksdag, the seat of Sweden's government, lawmakers, officials and the king and queen headed into the modern chamber for the first session. Lindh's absence was evident.

Business

Federal Reserve: The Federal Reserve held a main short-term interest rate at a 45-year low Tuesday amid signs that the economy is getting on firmer footing after months of wobbling.

Fed Chairman Alan Greenspan and his Federal Open Market Committee colleagues — the group that sets interest rate policy in the United States — kept the federal funds rate at 1 percent. The funds rate, the interest banks charge each other on overnight loans, is the Fed's primary tool for influencing the economy.

War on terrorism

Asian militants' trial: Four alleged members of the Southeast Asian militant network Jemaah Islamiyah went on trial Tuesday on charges of plotting to bomb foreign embassies in the Thai capital.

The preliminary hearing in Bangkok Criminal Court was adjourned after the court scheduled the testimony of more than 60 witnesses. The next sessions were set for Nov. 18 and 28.

Moroccan terrorism trial: A court decided Tuesday to postpone until later this week the verdict in a terrorism trial of 34 people, including a French citizen accused of trying to organize an Islamic uprising.

A three-judge panel will hand down the verdict Thursday, the court said after lawyers for Pierre Robert pleaded their client's innocence in closing arguments late Monday.

Death sentence upheld: An Indonesian appeals court has upheld the death sentence of Amrozi bin Nurhasyim, who was convicted for his role in the attack on two nightclubs on Bali island in which 202 people died, court officials and lawyers said Tuesday.

Amrozi, the first of more than 30 suspects to be tried for the Oct. 12, 2002, nightclub bombing, has said he was proud of his role in the attack and would welcome death as a martyr. Nevertheless, after he was sentenced on Aug. 7, Amrozi instructed his lawyers to appeal.

Bali blast suspect: A Bali bomb suspect pleaded Monday for judges to sentence him to 20 years in prison rather than death, saying he was only following orders in October's terror attack on the resort island.

Ali Imron, a 33-year-old Islamic boarding school teacher accused of involvement in the attack that killed 202 people, also promised judges that he would tell his students not to follow in his footsteps.

From wire reports

News from around the war

Trainees proud to wear uniform

KIRKUSH, Iraq — Ali Tawfik Abbas says he was once ashamed to wear the Iraqi army uniform. But Abbas on Monday beamed with excitement about the new national army, as he and hundreds of other recruits went through training by U.S.-led forces at a desert camp 30 miles west of the Iranian border.

In the army of former President Saddam Hussein, Abbas said, he had two meals a day and could not drink water, even when outdoor drills in the searing sun left him dehydrated. And as war with the United States approached this spring, he said, he and eight fellow soldiers planned their escape.

"I used to have to keep my head down because I was ashamed of the politics of the old regime," said Abbas, 19, from Najaf. "Now I am proud to be a part of the first line of defense to the new, democratic Iraq."

Abbas spoke during a visit to the training facility by journalists, who arrived in CH-47 Chinook military helicopters and toured the camp under escort. The 735 recruits at the camp are part of a force intended to defend the country's borders and guard key sites by next year.

The trainees had just returned from a one-week leave, during which 16 of them decided not to return. On Monday, the returning recruits fired weapons, simulated an attack and listened to lessons about health and hygiene.

They also stood in five-foot holes and shot at targets 300 yards away with AK-47 assault rifles, as an instructor from Vinnell Corp., a subsidiary of Northrop Grumman, looked on.

After the exercise, Khalid Taher Khalid, 29, an Iraqi Kurd, said that ethnic tensions were nonexistent and that he joined the new army out of a sense of obligation to the country.

"I have loyalty to all of Iraq," he said.

Scientists downplay looted materials

VIENNA, Austria — Iraqi scientists Tuesday minimized the danger of terrorists using looted radioactive material from their country to build a dirty bomb, saying most of what was stolen was low in radiation and has been recovered.

One of the scientists also said it was unlikely that Saddam Hussein revived efforts to build nuclear weapons after his program was destroyed by U.N. teams after the 1991 Persian Gulf War because his experts did not have the resources.

"There was no way to revive those attempts," said Abbas Balasem, now a senior official in the ministry of technology of the U.S.-led Iraqi administration. "There was nothing left."

Asked if Balasem had worked on Saddam's pre-1991 nuclear programs, the International Atomic Energy Agency said an initial check showed no record of him in that capacity. A diplomat familiar with the agency said Balasem would be in their database if he had played a key role.

Democrats push for firings

WASHINGTON — House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi on Tuesday exhorted President Bush to fire advisers who helped him set U.S. policy in Iraq, saying miscalculations have cost American lives.

The California Democrat was joined in that call by Rep. John Murtha, D-Pa., a Vietnam combat veteran and senior member of the House Appropriations Committee.

"We can't allow these bureaucrats to get off while these young people are paying such a heavy price," Murtha said at a joint news conference with Pelosi.

Neither lawmaker would specify who should lose their jobs. Asked whether Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld should be fired, Murtha said, "I've never known a secretary of defense to set the policy."

Asked about the Democrats' remarks at a later news conference, House Majority Leader Tom DeLay, R-Texas, defended the administration's actions in Iraq as a costly, complicated and necessary endeavor or that is preferable to letting the international community take control.

"Fighting this war on terror is something nobody's ever done before, so there will obviously be mistakes here and there," he said. He said when a mistake is made, "They quickly correct it."

Civil treatment promised

MOSUL, Iraq — The commanding general of the 101st Airborne Division has promised to treat Saddam Hussein's fugitive defense minister with "utmost dignity and respect" if he surrenders.

The offer, made in a letter dated Aug. 28 by Maj. Gen. David Petraeus, was in response to a request by Sultan Hashim Ahmed's family and tribal chiefs that Ahmed's name be removed from America's list of 55 most-wanted Iraqis in return for his surrender.

Giving Ahmed special treatment could be an effort to defuse the continuing guerrilla-style attacks taking a heavy toll on American soldiers. Many attackers are thought to be former Iraqi soldiers who melted into the civilian population after Saddam was ousted.

Iraqi to attend OPEC meeting

LONDON — An Iraqi delegation will attend next week's meeting of OPEC members for the first time since U.S.-led forces deposed former Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, a significant boost for a new government hungry for international recognition.

The Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries dropped its insistence that Iraq's attendance be made conditional on U.N. recognition of the American-backed interim government in Baghdad, in a sign of growing international acceptance of Iraq's new Governing Council.

Sanctions trial starts

SARAJEVO, Bosnia and Herzegovina — A group of Bosnian Serb officials accused of violating U.N. sanctions by selling military equipment to Iraq went on trial Tuesday before a local court in northern Bosnia.

A prosecutor in the northeastern town of Bijeljina charged five top officials from the Bosnian Serb aviation firm Orao, six high-ranking military officers and six customs inspectors in March this year with illegally exporting weapons or concealing information about the trade.

Ex-Taliban commander killed

KANDAHAR, Afghanistan — A top commander for the former Taliban regime who allegedly has been leading rebel fighters in southern Afghanistan has been killed in a shootout with Afghan forces, government and security officials said Tuesday.

The commander, identified as Hafiz Abdul Rahim, was killed late Sunday in the Maruf district of Kandahar province along with 14 other fighters, Malim Syed Ali Khan, the head of the local administration in Maruf, told The Associated Press.

Khan Mohammed Khan, the military chief of Kandahar province, and Haji Grani, the commander of Kandahar's 7th Corps military unit, both confirmed Rahim's death in satellite phone calls with AP.

The clash in which Rahim died occurred after 60 to 70 Taliban fighters attacked the headquarters of the Maruf administration, Khan said.

One other rebel fighter, identified as Mullah Abdur Rahman, a "front-line Taliban commander but not a big leader," was captured alive, Khan said. Afghan authorities were interrogating Rahman in Kandahar, the provincial capital.

South Korea weighs U.S. request

SEOUL, South Korea — South Korea's government is wary about the recent U.S. request to send more troops to Iraq, several news agencies reported Monday.

The government and several opposition parties have not given official statements on their position, leading most observers to believe further troop deployments are unlikely.

"President Roh Moo-hyun will make a decision that will best serve the nation's interests, after carefully reviewing the international and domestic situations," Roh's chief of staff was quoted as saying Monday.

The chief of staff said the decision would be based partially on whether the United Nations would define the troops as peacekeepers.

From staff and wire reports

Equipment, stockpiles wear thin for troops in Iraq

BY JOSEPH L. GALLOWAY
Knight Ridder

WASHINGTON — The Army's Bradley fighting vehicles and M1 Abrams tanks are eating up the tracks they run on at an astounding rate in Iraq.

Humvee tires are wearing out much more quickly as well, and harsh desert conditions are taking a toll on helicopter blades and engines.

The Army's chief logistics and materiel commanders said that although they try to prepare for the worst, few saw any need for 130,000 troops in Iraq this long after the war, and no one anticipated that mines and rocket-propelled grenade attacks would require Bradley fighting vehicles to escort every convoy running from Kuwait into Iraq.

"Did we do enough? Probably not," said Gen. Paul Kern of Army Materiel Command. "Did we plan for this many people, this long? Some did; some didn't."

"The cost is in the billions. We ate up our stockpiles," Kern said at a recent Pentagon briefing.

But Kern also said that things were better for soldiers now, about six months after the war began.

He said that widespread soldier com-

plaints in the spring about slow mail delivery, an endless diet of Meals Ready-to-Eat and a shortage of bottled water have largely been dealt with.

Mail delivery now takes an average of 10 days from the United States to a soldier serving in Iraq. And each soldier should be getting four bottles of water per day in addition to a veritable river of purified water that's being produced by portable reverse osmosis purification plants.

Les Brownlee, acting secretary of the Army, said a private contractor, Kellogg Brown and Root, built and staffed almost all of the 32 dining halls where most American troops deployed to Iraq now get two hot meals per day. Brownlee added that 13 newly built ice plants would be operational in Iraq in October.

"Soldiers' quality of life is less than adequate overall. We have guys living in tents in the dirt. The units on the ground are living hard; others are living in air-conditioned palaces," said Maj. Gen. Chris Christianson, the new chief of Army logistics, who was on the staff of Lt. Gen. Dave McKiernan, the ground commander in Iraq during the war.

He said Kellogg Brown and Root had the single-source contract for food, laundry, showers, toilets and bug control for American troops in Iraq and is the contractor for transportation and distribution of food and water and mail.

Christianson noted that today almost 90 percent of all soldiers' mail consist of packages from home, while personal communication is almost entirely by e-mail.

"This is a huge volume; six or seven trucks with two containers of mail per truck goes to each brigade every three days," he said. "Some folks are even mailing air conditioners to their soldiers."

Kern said that the most critical shortage is track and suspension systems for the Bradley fighting vehicles, which normally run only 800 miles in an average year but are running 1,200 miles per month escorting convoys in Iraq.

"They are changing track every 60 days when normally they would do that only once a year," Kern said. "We are air shipping replacement track to Iraq now."

"Our predictions were for higher use of these vehicles but we did not foresee the need to secure all our convoys with Bradleys," Kern said. He added that the prediction was that Army's Red River Depot, which rebuilds worn-out track, and Goodyear and United Defense, which manufacture new track, would catch up on the backlog orders in about three months.

The commander added that there was a major shortage of power generators. "It's a demand problem," Kern said. "It gets to 140 or 150 degrees in-

side a tank or a tent. The locals don't do anything during the day due to the heat, but we work days. There is a huge demand for power to provide cool areas for our computers and our people" and to power refrigerated trucks storing frozen food.

Kern said the brigade of Stryker wheeled fighting vehicles scheduled to deploy to Iraq in October could prove to be "a better fit for convoy duty than the Bradleys — they have good armor, good weapons, good speed and a good ride."

Kern said that despite new advances in technology that automatically track shipping containers and their contents from the United States to the port in Kuwait, the system from Kuwait into Iraq left a lot to be desired.

Logistics communications in Iraq were "disastrous," he said.

He said there was no communication with the logisticians once they crossed into Iraq during the war and immediately afterward. "When it came to requisitioning parts we used the sneaker system — you put on your sneakers and head to the rear to find what you need."

Christianson said the two main jobs he sees in transforming Army logistics are fixing a creaky battlefield distribution system and bringing the logisticians online from the rear to the front. "This is going to require significant changes to get it right," he said.

U.S. moves in Iraq, Afghanistan are commanding respect of foes

BY MARK FRITZ
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Iran's legislature mulls a plan to stop bankrolling terrorism. Syria says it has shut down the offices of Palestinian suicide bombers. Libya tries to wheedle its way into Washington's sphere of affluence with wads of cash.

The United States and its bare-knuckled diplomacy may have alienated old allies and inspired armies of vengeful extremists, but the last superpower's might and money — along with its military conquests in Iraq and Afghanistan — has commanded some measure of respect among enemies who wouldn't mind being showered with cash instead of cluster bombs.

Call it a case of Iraq-a-phobia, an affliction that analysts say will prove fleeting if Washington — or Americans in general — grow weary of U.S. troops dying while serving on missions that become lengthier and more lethal than expected.

"There's little doubt that the U.S. pre-emption policy has, for example, made perennial state sponsors of terrorism less inclined to act provocatively," said Jonathan Stevenson, senior fellow for counter-terrorism at the International Institute for Strategic Studies in London.

A good example, he said, is Syria, which apparently heeded American demands that it not provide sanctuary to people close to the ousted Saddam. Syria also says it has shut down the offices of Islamic Jihad and Hamas, prime architects of suicide bombings against Israel, though it has yet to expel the agents of those organizations.

Other examples of speaking strongly and wielding a big, laser-guided stick:

■ The United Nations last week lifted sanctions on Libya after it surrendered two Libyans indicted for the 1988 bombing of a U.S. Pan Am jet over Lockerbie, Scotland, and paid compensation to families of victims. Libya is desperate for the United States to lift its

own economic sanctions, which have frozen a fortune in contracts with U.S. oil companies.

■ Pakistan and Saudi Arabia, titular allies despite anti-Western hatred that extends deep into their respective societies, have succumbed more swiftly to U.S. pressure to break up various terrorist cells.

■ A court last month in the Sudan, once a notorious terrorist redoubt, convicted a Syrian and sentenced him to a month in prison for training Palestinians and Saudis to carry out attacks against U.S. forces in Iraq.

■ Iran says it has arrested some anti-American terrorists, grudgingly agreed to follow global rules for preventing the spread of nuclear arms, and will likely join an international convention this week banning the financing of terrorism.

"Sudan and Libya showed clear signs of reform before" the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks on the United States, Stevenson said, "but muscular U.S. foreign policy has reinforced their tilt toward better international citizenship. Iran, though still a problem, appears more willing to comply with international norms as to inspection of their nuclear facilities" while keeping anti-Israeli groups it sponsors on "a relatively short leash."

Yet the downside to the American-led wars in a pair of Islamic countries has been to boost support for al-Qaida, the terror group blamed for the 9/11 attacks, and chill relations with traditional allies such as Germany and France, which favor a more global and diplomacy-driven approach for dealing with rogue nations, Stevenson said.

Though rogue state leaders "must be quaking to some extent," the fear probably was greatest right after the fall of Baghdad, a powerful image, yet the difficulties in stabilizing Iraq and Afghanistan probably tempered some of that fear, said Richard K. Betts, director of the Institute of War and Peace Studies at Columbia University.

The bloody nose we've gotten in the botched occupation of Iraq may give

them a breather, since it looks far less plausible that even this belligerent administration will want to take on more such problems," Betts said. "None of the rogues are doing anything blatant to appease us. I think they must clearly be worried, but I don't yet see evidence or a trend to suggest that it will push them toward pre-emptive surrender."

Despite the loss of life and harsh criticism from traditional allies, the U.S. action is having a greater global psychological impact than most people realize.

"Everybody has been more or less focused on Iraq, but it is really a tip of a very large iceberg that is taking place all over the world," said Dr. Stanley A. Renshon, a City University of New York psychoanalyst and political scientist.

Intelligence agencies in the Philippines, Pakistan, Indonesia, Saudi Arabia and elsewhere are clearly working in concert with U.S. intelligence to identify and detain potential terrorist plotters, said Renshon.

Yet any sign that the Americans are waffling could be disastrous after taking such a tough guy stance, said Renshon. Discussions of a so-called "exit strategy" already threaten to render the United States into a paper tiger, Renshon said.

"The people calling for an exit strategy in the hope of not getting another Vietnam are going to get just that," he said.

The United States has put itself in a position of having to keep playing the bully or finding itself in the position of not just facing a movement of terrorists, but a resurgence of states that support them, said Timothy Naftali, a Cold War historian. "This, by the way, is the argument against wanton unilateralism," Naftali said.

There isn't much precedent to guide the Americans. Even ancient Greece couldn't run the world because of the potent threat presented by Sparta. Only once before has a single state so dominated a world to the point that the legions of weaker tribes, movements and religions had to wait centuries to storm its gates to bring it down. "Rome," said Naftali.

Air defenses in S. Korea

SEOUL, South Korea — The U.S. military said Tuesday it has enhanced its air defense system in South Korea to better counter missile threats from North Korea.

The U.S. military has received new equipment to upgrade its system to the latest generation of Patriot interceptor missiles, the Patriot Advanced Capability-3, the 8th U.S. Army said in a news release.

The Patriot missiles are built to destroy targets — such as tactical ballistic missiles, cruise missiles and enemy aircraft — by colliding with them at high speed, rather than using an explosive warhead.

"This system enhances our ability to prevent any external aggression which includes North Korea," said Lt. Col. Steven Boylan, a spokesman for the Eighth Army.

The U.S. military would not say how many Patriot missile batteries it keeps in South Korea.

North Korea has an aggressive missile development program, although most of its 1.1-million army is equipped with outdated Soviet-era weapons. Its Rodong missiles can reach all of South Korea and much of Japan.

Albatrosses hurting

HONOLULU — Baby albatrosses on Midway Island are developing lead poisoning by eating paint chips, according to a study by a team of researchers from the University of California, Santa Cruz.

"The chicks are eating paint chips directly — it's not from contaminated soil," reported Myra Finkelstein, a graduate student who is studying the birds. "Knowing that can help guide remediation efforts."

According to the study, which appeared in the August issue of Environmental Science & Technology, the toxic metal damages the birds' nervous systems and many aren't able to hold their wings tucked up against their bodies. The wings drag on the ground, a symptom of lead poisoning called "drooping."

The Navy spent millions of dollars scraping lead-based paint from buildings and repainting with oil-based paint after closing its facility there in the mid-1990s and turning the island over to the Department of the Interior to have it managed as a wildlife refuge.

Many chicks don't have drooping but may suffer other effects that lower their chances of survival, Finkelstein said. When they reach fledgling stage and parents abandon them, the birds starve, because they can't fly, she said.

The drooping symptom is comparable to the "wrist drop symptom" of high-level lead poisoning in humans, said Lee Ann Woodward, resource contaminant specialist in Honolulu for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's National Wildlife Refuge.

She said the refuge has funding from the service to evaluate how extensive any remediation effort would be. Corrective action could involve removing contaminated soil or repainting old buildings to stabilize the lead-based paint, she said.

Midway is home to the largest known Laysan albatross breeding population — about 65 percent of the total global population.

According to a 2001 count, there were about 287,000 breeding pairs of the albatrosses, also known as gooney birds.

Marine arrested

OKINAWA CITY, Okinawa — A U.S. Marine was taken into custody by Okinawa police Sunday for breaking the window of an eyeglass shop early Sunday.

Lance Cpl. Zachery Taylor, 20, assigned to Marine Corps Air Station Futenma, was apprehended and accused of punching the shop window twice, a police spokesman said.

The police report stated that Taylor appeared intoxicated and admitted hitting the window but denied intending to break it.

From wire and staff reports

Marine who served in Iraq dies in crash

JOHNSTON, R.I. — A Marine Corps lance corporal who served in Iraq has been killed in a car accident.

David Forgue Jr. died Sunday when his sport utility vehicle flipped over several times and struck a tree, according to police.

Passers-by tried to help him before medical help arrived. Forgue was taken to Rhode Island Hospital, where he was pronounced dead.

Forgue joined the Marines when he was 18. He served six months in Iraq and Kuwait as a mechanic with the 6th Motor Transport Battalion.

His mother says he lived life to the fullest and put a smile on everybody's face.

Thunderbirds cancel some shows

LAS VEGAS — The Air Force Thunderbirds will not fly this week in Maryland or Kansas, and the Air Force said Tuesday the demonstration team's schedule for the remainder of the year was in question after a crash Sunday in Idaho.

"They are not performing on Sunday," Nellis Air Force base spokeswoman Linda Johnsrud said of the precision F-16 team's next scheduled public performance this weekend in Wichita, Kan.

A Thunderbirds performance scheduled Wednesday during a conference of allied air chiefs at Andrews Air Force Base, Md., also was canceled, and Johnsrud said no decision had been made about a scheduled Sept. 27-28 appearance in Janesville, Wis.

"Nobody has gone beyond this week as far as making any decisions," she said.

Capt. Chris R. Stricklin, 31, escaped serious injury Sunday when he ejected moments before the jet he was piloting hit the ground and exploded in a fireball before 85,000 spectators at Mountain Home Air Force Base, Idaho.

Maj. Gen. Steve Wood, commander of the Air Warfare Cen-

ter at Nellis Air Force Base, said Monday that the Thunderbirds have not been grounded.

"We hope to return to our demonstration schedule quickly once all safety issues have been addressed," Wood said.

Meanwhile, military and civilian aircraft were allowed back on the runway at Mountain Home on Monday.

Stricklin, who has served a year with the prestigious unit and logged more than 1,500 hours as an Air Force pilot, was flying the last of six jets to take off in the "opposing solo" position.

His aircraft shot straight up, rolling as it ascended in a move called the "Split-S." At the top of the maneuver, Stricklin dropped the plane's nose into a steep dive. But at the bottom of the move, Stricklin's jet appeared to lose power just as he tried to pull up. He ejected less than a second before the jet belly-flopped into the ground near the control tower.

The exact distance between the crash and the crowd was not known, said Mountain Home base spokesman 1st Lt. Joseph Campbell, but viewers were never in danger.

ABC wins Jessica Lynch interview

NEW YORK — ABC News' Diane Sawyer was chosen Monday for the first television news interview with Jessica Lynch, considered the year's most highly sought-after broadcast "get."

Sawyer's interview with the former prisoner of war will air in prime time on Nov. 11, Veteran's Day, and the day Lynch's book is scheduled to be published.

It's also in the middle of the November ratings "sweeps," when ratings are watched closely to set ad rates.

Knopf has set up a complete media strategy for Lynch that also includes an interview with Couric for "Today" to air starting Nov. 12.

Lynch also will make an appearance on the CBS "Late Show" with David Letterman on Nov. 14. Then she'll appear on CNN's "Larry King Live" on Nov. 17 with her family and Rick Bragg, who is writing her authorized biography.

From wire reports

Marine Corps' top enlisted man wants more training for peacekeepers

BY SANDRA JONTZ

Stars and Stripes

ARLINGTON, Va. — U.S. Marines need more training in peacekeeping in order to keep up with the missions they will face in the future, said the Corps' top enlisted man.

"We'll have to focus for the future and spend a little more time training our Marines in those areas," Sgt. Maj. John Estrada, the 15th sergeant major of the Marine Corps, said during a recent interview.

While the quick-to-deploy 2,000-man Marine Expeditionary Units receive some peacekeeping training, even that is not nearly enough, he said.

On June 26, Estrada, 47, assumed his post as the Corps' sergeant major with plans to focus on housing, education and safety for his Marines.

Peacekeeping missions could very well be close on the Corps' horizon, a point of view echoed recently by Lt. Gen. James Conway, who led the Marine contingent during the Iraq war.

"You're right in that Marines don't normally do this type of thing, but I think we all recognize that the Army is being fairly well stretched now with all the other requirements that it has, so it would not be an inordinate request, I would not think," Conway, commanding general of the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force, said during a Sept. 9 Pentagon briefing.

The Corps did not have a formal peacekeeping doctrine when Marines of the I MEF began rebuilding missions in southern Iraq. That should change, the two leaders separately said.

Changes could start with the Corps' enlisted ranks that took over some officer roles during the conflict and proved they could handle added responsibilities, Estrada said.

"The young [noncommissioned officers] and junior officers are quite capable of proving they can go out there with no supervi-

sion and accomplish the mission," Estrada said. "What I see is, we need to continue to empower them instead of micromanaging them all the time. They're a bunch of smart kids out there, officers and enlisted. Those are the ones that actually won the war."

Staff NCOs filled traditional officer billets such as safety officers, substance abuse officer and legal officers while officers took on other leadership roles, said Estrada, who, while a lead drill instructor, earned himself the nickname "The Crusher."

Estrada said he had immense respect for his own drill instructors, but could have done without some of the ways of boot camp. He didn't mimic his drill instructor, nor did he want others to.

"I used to tell my drill instructors 'If you lay a hand on any of those recruits, I'm gonna crush you.' But what I meant was I was going to destroy them professionally," he said.

The name, much is his chagrin, stuck. Estrada enlisted in the Marine Corps on Sept. 5, 1973. Until his selection to represent the Corps' enlisted personnel, he had served with the 3rd Marine Air Wing in California.

His toughest challenge, he said, is working to keep Marines alive — especially off duty.

"I am beating that around the Marine Corps," Estrada said. "Every time I speak, one of the last things I talk about is safety. We have to find ways of reducing off duty accidents. Why is it so challenging? We've been talking safety all these years and it doesn't seem to be registering. I think it's because the Marines are young."

The Corps has faced a surge in off-duty casualties among Marines returning from the war zone and engaging in dangerous behavior, such as aggressive and drunken driving.

"We need to start challenging those same youngsters out there to come up with the answers on how to fix it," Estrada said. "The commandant and I can preach all we want, but we can't fix it. They have to fix it."

E-mail Sandra Jontz at: jontzs@stripes.osd.mil

Clark poised to enter presidential race

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. — Wesley Clark, the retired general with a four-star military resume but no political experience, decided Tuesday to become the 10th Democratic presidential candidate, officials close to him said.

"We'll make an announcement in Little Rock tomorrow," the former NATO commander told The Associated Press. He didn't reveal his decision, but said with a smile, "We're tremendously excited."

Officials close to the campaign, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Clark planned to announce his entry at 1 p.m. EDT in the Arkansas capital.

Edwards will run

RALEIGH, N.C. — John Edwards, the Southern moderate dogged by complaints that he's short on political experience, is pitching himself as a champion of the working man as he formally joins the crowded Democratic presidential race.

The North Carolina senator, who made millions as a trial attorney before entering politics, highlighted his blue collar roots by staging his announcement at the Robbins, N.C., textile mill where his father worked for 36 years. A young John Edwards once had a job there, mopping beneath looms in the weave room.

Weather blocks rescue

A raging spring storm swirling across the South Pole has stalled attempts to send a rugged twin-engine plane on a 1,346-mile mission to rescue a seriously ill research worker.

Rescuers hoped to try again during a forecasted break in the storm Tuesday morning, said Steve Penikett, general manager of the Kenn Borek Air charter company of Calgary, Alberta.

The ailing worker, who is suffering from bladder problems, was stuck at the Amundsen-Scott South Pole Station and works for Raytheon Polar Services of Centennial, Colo.

Bombs shift feasible

WASHINGTON — The Justice Department is considering a proposal to give the FBI initial control over all cases that involve bombs and other explosives — a shift that would mark a significant decline in clout for the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

The ATF, which was transferred to Justice earlier this year from the Treasury Department, only recently added "explosives" to its official name and usually has been considered the lead agency in federal bomb cases.

But an attorney general's directive under consideration at Justice would funnel all explosives cases first to the FBI, which would be the lead federal investigative agency until it "has significantly ruled out a link to domestic or international terrorism," according to a draft provided Monday by a legislative source.

The proposal has angered many ATF agents, who have had difficult relations with the FBI and opposed the move to the Justice Department.

N. Korean drug trade

WASHINGTON — President Bush is increasingly anxious about heroin and other drug trafficking linked to North Korea, and the United States will increase efforts to halt it, the White House said.

Bush's concern was expressed in an annual report to Congress that reviews countries' counternarcotics performances. A State Department official said it was the first time North Korea was mentioned in the report.

White House Press Secretary Scott McClellan said Monday, in a statement accompanying the report, that Bush "registered his growing concern over heroin and methamphetamine trafficking linked to North Korea and expressed his intent for the United States to intensify its efforts to stop North Korean involvement in narcotics production and trafficking."

CDC: U.S. infant mortality reaches record low

ATLANTA — The U.S. infant mortality rate dropped to another record low in 2001, in part because of a decline in SIDS deaths, but is still higher than that of other industrialized countries, the government said Wednesday.

The U.S. rate in 2001 — the latest data available — fell to 6.8 deaths per 1,000 live births from 6.9 the previous year, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The rate has declined 68 percent since 1983.

The 2001 decline was attributed largely to an 11 percent decline in deaths from sudden infant death syndrome, one of the three leading causes of infant death along with congenital malformations and low birth weight. The CDC said SIDS declined because of public health campaigns that encourage mothers to take such steps as making their babies sleep on their backs.

Despite the improvements, the U.S. rate is more than twice that of other developed countries. In Sweden, for example, the rate was 3 deaths per 1,000 live births in 2000, the latest data available from the United Nations. Experts say the difference is due in part to more premature births and poorer access to health care in poor communities in the United States.

9/11 memorial flag in national forest is burned

FRISCO, Colo. — An American flag placed atop a mountain peak in a national forest as a memorial to the victims of the Sept. 11 attacks was torched, authorities said.

Summit County deputies were investigating a report that a hiker found a note on the 13,589-foot snowcapped summit claiming responsibility for the fire, sheriff's spokeswoman Jill Berman said Monday.

The FBI was notified because the flag was in the White River National Forest, Berman said.

The flag had been placed on the peak on Thursday, the second anniversary of the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks, replacing a tattered flag that had been there since the first anniversary.

From wire reports

S. Korea bases shift focus

YONGSAN GARRISON, South Korea — Spared from the brunt of the most powerful typhoon to hit South Korea in a century, U.S. sailors and soldiers are helping their less-fortunate neighbors.

The toll from Typhoon Maemi, which lashed the southeastern part of South Korea over the weekend, continues to rise. As of Monday afternoon, officials said the body count topped 115 and early estimates of damage totaled more than 1.4 trillion won, or \$1.2 billion.

In a short statement released Monday by U.S. Forces Korea, Gen. Leon LaPorte expressed sympathy for those affected by the typhoon and encouraged servicemembers to volunteer in local assistance efforts.

Most U.S. installations in the south reported numerous downed trees and moderate property damage but no injuries to personnel.

U.S. Army bases in the area reported hundreds of downed trees, moderate property damage and sporadic power outages, an Area IV spokesman said Monday.

Meanwhile, South Korean officials warned the worst was not over. Already high rivers are beginning to overflow their banks, adding to the flooding problems. Disaster officials say they also expect damage estimates and casualties to increase as power is restored to areas that have not yet been able to report either figures.

Those officials estimate that as a result of the typhoon, 9,000 people either were injured or sustained serious property damage; 850 buildings, 200 roads and four bridges were destroyed; and 88 ships were stranded and wrecked.

More than 60,000 households remain without power, the Korea Electric Power Corpora-

tion said Tuesday. Five nuclear power plants on the south and east coasts were shut down in the storm.

Shipyard's future discussed

KITTERY, Maine — The Pentagon won't propose its next list of proposed military base closures for another two years, but efforts to spare the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard are already under way.

"The Maine and New Hampshire delegations stand united in helping the shipyard in any way we can," U.S. Sen. Susan Collins, R-Maine, said Monday.

Collins was one of five legislators who met with navy officials to discuss the Kittery shipyard's future. Sens. Dodd Gregg and John Sununu, and U.S. Rep. Jeb Bradley, all New Hampshire Republicans, and U.S. Rep. Tom Allen, D-Maine, also attended.

The last series of the base closings in 1995 did not affect the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard or the Brunswick Naval Air Station. But Loring Air Force Base in Limestone and Pease Air Force Base in Newington, N.H., were both closed during the 1990s.

The legislators said Monday that the Kittery shipyard is vital to the U.S. military because of its maintenance of the Navy's submarine fleet.

The 203-year-old facility is the only shipyard on the East Coast dedicated to maintaining and refueling Los Angeles-class nuclear submarines. Currently, it's home to the USS Norfolk and Annapolis, which are undergoing refueling and maintenance.

With a civilian work force of more than 4,000 people, the shipyard is one of the leading employers in the Maine-New Hampshire seacoast area.

From staff and wire reports

Isabel weakens; parts of East Coast evacuate

BY EMERY P. DALESIO

The Associated Press

MANTEO, N.C. — Traffic surged off the Outer Banks island chain Tuesday as nearly 100,000 people were urged to evacuate the North Carolina coast before the arrival of Hurricane Isabel, which had weakened but remained a dangerous storm on a track toward land.

The National Hurricane Center posted a hurricane watch from Little River Inlet, S.C., to Chincoteague, Va., including Pamlico and Albemarle Sounds and a large part of Chesapeake Bay.

On tiny, low-lying Tangier Island in Chesapeake Bay, Wallace Pruitt stored outdoor furniture at the bed-and-breakfast inn he runs with his wife, Shirley.

"I don't usually get too excited about something like this, but this one has so much force I've been preparing for two days," said Pruitt, 63.

Forecasters said Isabel appeared to be on a course to hit Thursday on the North Carolina coast and move northward through eastern Virginia. Large swells and dangerous surf already were being felt along the coast.

The storm's maximum sustained wind had decreased to about 105 mph. More weakening was possible but the storm could strengthen again before landfall, the National Hurricane Center said in Miami.

The latest evacuation order was for the low-lying Outer Banks islands, which includes an estimated 75,000 people from Hatteras to Duck, 30,000 of them permanent residents, in Dare County. An additional 15,000 to 20,000 were urged to leave the beaches of Currituck County that extend from Duck to the Virginia state line.

Thousands of vacationers and residents left Outer Banks on Tuesday but traffic was moving smoothly. With the storm weakening, many residents appeared ready to stay put.

On Hatteras Island, Margie and Joe Brecker screwed plywood onto the door and windows of their Christmas gift shop in Rodanthe, but left up the colored holiday lights. They planned to stay.

"That way, we are right here when it's time to clean up, and we're able to help others," Margie Brecker said.

At 2 p.m. EDT Tuesday, Isabel's maximum sustained wind had slowed to near 105 mph, down from about 125 mph at 5 p.m. Monday, making it a Category 2 storm. On Sunday, Isabel's wind had hit 160 mph, making it a Category 5 storm.

The storm was moving north-northwest at around 7 mph and was about 595 miles southeast of North Carolina's Cape Hatteras, the hurricane center reported.

Isabel is the first major hurricane to threaten the mid-Atlantic since Floyd wreaked havoc on the East Coast in September 1999, causing 56 deaths.

Navy begins sending ships to sea

The Associated Press

NORFOLK, Va. — About 40 Navy ships and submarines began leaving bases in Virginia and New Jersey on Tuesday to avoid potential damage from Hurricane Isabel.

The ships will head out to sea to get north of the storm and then move east to maneuver around the hurricane, said Adm. Robert J. Natter, commander of the Norfolk-based Atlantic Fleet.

Forecasters said Isabel, with maximum sustained winds of 115 mph, appeared to be on a course to hit Thursday on the North Carolina coast and move up through eastern Virginia.

Natter said moving the ships will

cost "in the millions" but the expense would be far greater if the ships were damaged by being battered against the piers.

"We've got to be prudent," Natter told reporters on a pier at Norfolk Naval Station. "We cannot afford to have these very expensive, valuable national assets caught in port in a storm like this."

Natter said Isabel is expected to be especially dangerous because of possible 12-foot surges 500 miles ahead of the eye of the storm.

Most of the ships leaving Tuesday are based in southeastern Virginia. Two Navy oilers were to head to sea from Earle, N.J. More than 13,000 sailors are aboard the ships.

Congress balks at new nuke plan

WASHINGTON — A quiet Bush administration effort to begin planning for a new generation of nuclear weapons, including some bombs dubbed "bunker-busters," is meeting loud resistance in Congress.

Earlier this year, the Republican-led House unexpectedly voted to deny the administration millions of dollars it had sought to research an earth-penetrating nuclear weapon and other "advanced concepts," including the possible tactical use of atomic bombs on the battlefield.

The Senate was expected to vote Tuesday on a similar measure, proposed by Sen. Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif., which would amend a bill that funds the Department of Energy's nuclear weapons programs. Both sides predict that, this time, the administration will prevail.

Critics say the United States, by ramping up its weapons research at a time when it is warning states such as North Korea and Iran to halt development of an atomic bomb, risks encouraging the spread of nuclear weapons around the globe.

12 injured as nearly \$10,000 is launched in mall

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. — Hundreds of people at a shopping mall fought over nearly \$10,000 launched into a crowd by a real estate investor known as the "Money Man."

Six people were taken to hospitals and six others were treated for cuts and bruises, police spokesman Bill Proffitt said. The most serious injury was a possible broken arm, he said.

Police said at least 500 people crowded the BayWalk courtyard on Saturday for the cash giveaway. Kevin Shelton appeared on a balcony before firing \$2 bills out of his "cash cannon," a small silver tube.

Shelton, who began doling out money two years ago, said the giveaways are his way to spark generosity. He said he didn't realize anyone had been hurt.

A mall spokeswoman said the event was being evaluated to determine if anything should have been done differently.

From wire reports

Israel declines offer for truce

BY MARK LAVIE

The Associated Press

JERUSALEM — Yasser Arafat wants to reach a truce with Israel, his national security adviser said Tuesday, but Israeli officials brushed aside the offer, demanding instead that the Palestinian Authority crack down on militant groups.

Arafat himself struck a conciliatory tone, but stopped short of making a specific cease-fire offer. "We say to the peace supporters in Israel that we extend our hand to you to revive peace," Arafat said in a speech to about 2,500 Palestinians at his battered West Bank headquarters.

In the West Bank town of Dura, meanwhile, Israeli troops killed an Islamic militant fugitive in an arrest raid, witnesses and the army said. Such raids have triggered revenge bombings by Islamic militants in the past.

Arafat and his designated prime minister Ahmed Qureia are not in touch with the Israeli government on a proposed truce, officials said. But there are high-level contacts between the Palestinian Authority and the militant group Hamas on a new cease-fire, said a senior Palestinian official, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Palestinian officials have said they believe the United States backs the idea of a mutual truce, provided it is followed by some action against the militants, such as a weapons roundup.

Hamas, Islamic Jihad and militants linked to Arafat's Fatah movement declared a unilateral halt to bombings and shootings in June, but the truce collapsed last month in a new flareup of violence.

Israel had been suspicious of the unilateral and temporary cease-fire, saying it was a ruse to allow militants to regroup — and the Palestinian Authority to sidestep the requirement of the U.S.-backed "road map" peace plan to dismantle the groups.

Arafat's national security adviser, Brig. Gen. Jibril Rajoub, said Tuesday that the Palestinians would soon propose to the Israeli government a more comprehensive — and permanent — cease-fire — but warned it would only work if both sides agreed to it.

Carter criticizes Israel

WASHINGTON — Former President Jimmy Carter on Monday criticized Israeli threats to kill Yasser Arafat, saying they send "a wave of increasing animosity not only through the Palestinians but the entire world."

Carter said that statements by Deputy Prime Minister Ehud Olmert and other Israeli officials are "totally contrary to the position of the U.S. government" and U.S.-backed road map for peace in the Middle East even rules out a threat to exile the Palestinian leader.

The former president said Arafat could be more forceful in condemning violence, but can't control Hamas, which is responsible for scores of suicide bombings in Israel. "I don't think he is in charge of everything, but I know he can be a stronger leader," Carter said.

Describing prospects for peace between Israel and the Palestinians as dismal, Carter said "the U.S. does not seem to be making any strong effort" to implement the road map, drawn up by the United States, the United Nations, the European Union and Russia.

From The Associated Press

Israel's security Cabinet decided last week, in response to twin Hamas bombings that killed 15 people, to reject any Palestinian truce offer.

Raanan Gissin, an aide to Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, said Israel wants to see the Palestinian Authority take action against militants before agreeing to a truce.

Israeli lawmaker Yuval Steinitz, who is in Washington for meetings with Bush administration officials, including National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice, said that "there is no need to give a chance to a ceasefire that does not include dismantling all the armed groups, all the terrorist groups."

Arafat said Israel's position shows Prime Minister Ariel Sharon is not interested in making peace. "When has Israel ever accepted a truce and when has Israel ever accepted peace?" said Arafat.

U.N. called to send troops to Liberia

The Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS — The United States called Monday for the United Nations to send as many as 15,000 peacekeepers and 900 police officers to Liberia to help restore peace and start rebuilding the battered West African nation.

The U.S. draft resolution circulated to Security Council members asks Secretary-General Kofi Annan to transfer authority to a new U.N. peacekeeping force in October. A Nigerian-led West African force has been in the country since early August, bringing calm to the capital after nearly three months of fighting that killed more than 1,000 civilians.

The draft, obtained by The Associated Press, would give the U.N. force a broad mandate to help implement a June 17 cease-fire agreement, assist Liberia's new transitional government, facilitate the delivery of humanitarian aid, protect U.N. staff, and disarm combatants and retrain them for civilian life. It also would send civilian staff.

The council was scheduled to receive an open briefing Tuesday on Liberia.

The Security Council authorized a two-month deployment for a 3,250-strong West African force to help end fighting between forces loyal to warlord-turned-President Charles Taylor and rebels battling since 1999 to oust him.

Taylor went into exile in Nigeria on Aug. 11, and a power-sharing government will be installed Oct. 14, leading to democratic elections in 2005.

Despite promises from all combatants to avoid violence, however, armed gangs allied to the government and the rebels have been looting villages.

The U.N. Mission in Liberia, known as UNMIL, which would take over from the West Africans under the proposed U.S. resolution, would be authorized for a year and consist of "up to 15,000 United Nations military personnel, including up to 250 military observers, and up to 900 civilian police officers, and a civilian component."

Troop move means war?

SEOUL, South Korea — North Korea's state-controlled radio station warned Sunday that U.S. plans to relocate troops in South Korea mean a war could break out very soon on the Korean peninsula.

Radio Pyongyang, monitored in Seoul, contended the relocation talks are in preparation for a contingency, saying the moves meant "a war is imminent on the peninsula." The United States will face a massive retaliatory attack from the North if war breaks out, the station claimed.

From staff reports

Cowboys 35, Giants 32 (OT)

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. — Bill Parcells stood outside the locker room and congratulated each and every passing player.

He had just escaped with his first victory as coach of the Dallas Cowboys and did it against the New York Giants, the team he led to two Super Bowl victories.

It took a record-tying game from a relatively unknown kicker and some help from those notoriously inept guys on New York's special teams to give Parcells the unlikely victory, a 35-32 overtime thriller Monday night.

"That was about as wild a win as I've ever been in," Parcells said a few minutes after Billy Cundiff kicked his seventh field goal with 5:56 left in sudden death.

Cundiff's winning 25-yard kick came after he forced overtime with a career-long 52-yarder that barely got over the crossbar on the final play of regulation.

FOOTBALL

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. — Jaguars line-backer Keith Mitchell was released from the hospital, one day after being taken from the field on a stretcher with a neck injury.

Coach Jack Del Rio said Mitchell briefly lost feeling in his extremities after colliding with an opponent, but never lost movement.

Mitchell stayed overnight in the hospital, where tests showed no broken bones and no major damage.

HOUSTON — Houston Texans nose tackle Seth Payne will miss the rest of the season after tearing a ligament in his left knee in Sunday's loss to New Orleans.

GOLF

SILVIS, Ill. — Vijay Singh won the rain-delayed John Deere Classic by four strokes, earning his third title of the year. The victory moved him to the top of this season's PGA money list.

Singh closed with a 6-under-par 65 for a total of 16-under 268.

Chris Riley (71), J.L. Lewis (71) and Jonathan Byrd (68) shared second at 12-under 272.

The \$630,000 first prize boosted Singh's earnings for the year to more than

NFL

Cundiff probably never should have had a chance to tie it after Matt Bryant kicked a 30-yarder to give New York a 32-29 lead with 11 seconds to play.

All the Giants — who passed up a chance to run the clock down before the field goal — had to do was put the kickoff in play so that the clock would start. That would have left the Cowboys with one desperation play, but they wound up with just enough time to tie it.

Jim Fassel said he told Bryant to squib the kickoff down the middle. Bryant said his instructions were to squib it to the left.

The kick skidded on the artificial surface and went out of bounds at the 1, giving the Cowboys the ball at their own 40.

Sports in brief

\$5.6 million, edging him past Davis Love III.

BOISE, Idaho — The team of LPGA Hall of Famer Nancy Lopez and PGA Tour member Hank Kuehne won a nine-hole skins event at Hillcrest Country Club.

Only Kuehne had a better score than 13-year-old Michelle Wie, who was paired with John Daly in the Kraft/Nabisco Shoot-out.

On Thursday, at the same course, Wie will become the first female junior amateur to compete in a PGA Tour-sanctioned tournament by teeing it up in the Albertsons Boise Open on the Nationwide Tour.

SOCCER

ATLANTA — The WUSA shut down operations five days before the Women's World Cup, saying it didn't have enough money to stay in business for a fourth season.

The decision was made by the league's board of governors at a meeting in New York.

The league had franchises in Boston, Atlanta, San Diego, Washington, New

York, San Jose, North Carolina and Philadelphia.

DALLAS — The Dallas Burn fired coach Mike Jeffries and named assistant coach Colin Clarke his interim replacement.

The Burn (4-16-4), off to their worst start in team history, are in last place in the MLS' Western Conference.

BASKETBALL

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — The Charlotte Bobcats have received permission from the Boston Celtics to interview General Manager Chris Wallace for the same job with the expansion team.

Wallace is on a short list of about four candidates Charlotte wants to interview for the GM position.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

COLUMBUS, Ohio — Attorneys for suspended Ohio State tailback Maurice Clarett entered an innocent plea on his behalf on a misdemeanor falsification charge.

Clarett is charged with filing an exaggerated theft report with campus po-

Quincy Carter then hit Antonio Bryant with a 26-yard pass in front of the New York bench to put Cundiff in position to tie it.

An emotionally drained Fassel had trouble explaining what happened on the squib kick after the last of the Giants' 18 fourth-quarter points.

Cundiff's kicks covered 37, 49, 42, 21, 36, 52 and 25 yards.

Carter added an 8-yard touchdown run and line-backer Al Singleton scored on a 41-yard interception return for Dallas.

New York's Kerry Collins was 21-for-51 for 265 yards and threw three touchdown passes, and cornerback Ralph Brown scored on a 29-yard interception return.

Collins' TD passes covered 6 yards to Ike Hilliard, 1 to Jeremy Shockey, and 20 to Amani Toomer. Tiki Barber ran for a 2-point conversion to tie it at 29 with 6:20 to go in the fourth quarter.

From The Associated Press

lice in April after a dealership's car he was borrowing was broken into. The police report said cash and stereo equipment worth thousands of dollars was taken.

Prosecutors and Ohio State University police last Tuesday filed the charge, which carries a maximum penalty of six months in jail and a \$1,000 fine.

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

INDIANAPOLIS — A federal court in Texas upheld "March Madness" as a trademark of the NCAA and the Illinois High School Association.

The U.S. District Court in Dallas ruled that Netfire Inc. and Sports Marketing International Inc. were not entitled to use "March Madness" or contests involving the NCAA basketball championship on their Web sites.

The court ordered Netfire and Sports Marketing International to give up its Web domain name and pay undisclosed costs to the NCAA and IHSA.

HOCKEY

LOS ANGELES — The Los Angeles Kings acquired goaltender Milan Hrnica from the Atlanta Thrashers for future considerations.

From The Associated Press

'David' gets makeover for birthday

FLORENCE, Italy — Brushing off critics who fear the ruin of a Michelangelo masterpiece, restorers are forging ahead with the cleaning of "David," insisting one of the world's most-admired statues needs to be more presentable for its 500th birthday next year.

At a news conference Monday in front of Michelangelo's marble vision of naked male beauty, experts defended their decision to resume the project, which was interrupted when an internationally respected restorer quit rather than follow orders to use a cleaning method she feared could harm the sculpture.

"We're using the most harmless substance possible, water," said Antonio Paolucci, a former culture minister who is in charge of museums in Florence.

Restorer Agnese Parronchi quit this spring when some of the top names in Italy's fiercely competitive

art restoration world vetoed her plan to use chamois cloth, soft brushes, cotton swabs and an eraser to remove decades of dust and grime coating "David."

Gallery director Franca Falletti and others argued Parronchi's methods risked rubbing dirt deeper into the stone, and decided instead that a special cleansing "mud pack" should be applied.

Another veteran of Renaissance art restoration, Cinzia Parrigoni, is replacing Parronchi in the "David" restoration.

Parrigoni estimated she would wrap up her work sometime next spring.

Sword attack leaves 1 dead

PFORZHEIM, Germany — An employee attacked co-workers with a samurai sword in the offices of a

mail-order warehouse in southwestern Germany on Tuesday, killing a 27-year-old woman and seriously wounding three others before turning the blade on himself, police said.

Police arrested the 24-year-old attacker, who was seriously hurt, at the scene. The sword was an office decoration which he grabbed after walking into the Bader company in Pforzheim, west of Stuttgart, police said.

The man had lost his driver's license the night before after failing a drunken-driving test at a police checkpoint, authorities said, adding that they were investigating whether that might have motivated his rampage.

The injured women, ages 20, 34 and 57, were taken to hospitals.

Police sealed off the company offices and other employees were receiving psychological counseling.

From wire reports

John Ritter remembered

Actor John Ritter was remembered by his family and close friends at a private service in Los Angeles on Monday, four days after his sudden death.

Ritter's publicist, Lisa Kasteler, did not release details of the service. She said a public memorial was being planned and Ritter's friends and colleagues will pay tribute to him in an ABC News special.

"A Life of Laughter: Remembering John Ritter," an hourlong program anchored by Diane Sawyer, was expected to air in the United States on Tuesday.

Those scheduled to be part of the special include Suzanne Somers and Joyce DeWitt, who costarred with Ritter in the 1977-84 sitcom "Three's Company," and Katey Sagal, his co-star on the ABC sitcom "8 Simple Rules for Dating My Teenage Daughter."

Ritter, 54, died Thursday after suffering a tear in his aorta. He was stricken while on the set of "8 Simple Rules."

ABC was weighing the future of the show, which was to start its second season Sept. 23.

Man arrested for taunting Blaine

London police on Tuesday arrested a man who allegedly tried to cut the water line sustaining magician David Blaine, who is trying to live without food for 44 days in a box dangling near Tower Bridge.

Faces 'n' places

The magician reportedly was awakened by the suspect but was not injured.

"The man threw water bottles and other objects from the tower and tried to cut through water and cable lines connected to the tower, but without success," a police statement said. "He came down of his own accord."

R. Kelly: Similar to bin Laden

R. Kelly, who gained fame with songs such as "I Believe I Can Fly," now compares himself to Osama bin Laden.

The R&B singer was indicted last year on child pornography charges after a videotape purportedly showed him having sex with an underage girl. Kelly, who's free on bond, has denied the charges.

"People can say whatever they want about you without knowing the facts," Kelly tells Blender magazine in its October issue.

"They can criticize you without even knowing you, and hate you when they don't even know you. All of a sudden, you're like, the bin Laden of America. Osama bin Laden is the only one who knows exactly what I'm going through."

But he's kept himself busy in the recording studio for the past six months, and says ideas for songs come to him anywhere, including the kitchen or the basketball court.

"I love music, and music loves me back. We're kind of married, and I'm pregnant by music," the 36-year-old says. "I have three to four years' worth of work you've never heard in the vaults. I've come up with at least 20 to 25 albums."

Osbourne signs record deal

Kelly Osbourne has signed a contract with Sanctuary Records Group, which will rerelease her first CD, "Shut Up," under the name "Changes" on Sept. 30.

Her signing was announced Thursday by Merck Mercuriadis, chief executive officer of Sanctuary.

The repackaged album will contain a duet with her father, Ozzy Osbourne, on the title track. The original version of "Changes" appeared on "Black Sabbath, Vol. 4."

Kelly and Ozzy rewrote the lyrics to "Changes," which will be released as a single, to reflect how the relationship between a father and daughter changes as they grow older, the record label said.

Sanctuary Records Group is home of recording artists such as Kiss, Morrissey, The RZA, The Libertines, Ween and Spiritualized.

From wire reports

National League

Braves 10, Expos 6

MONTREAL — Robert Fick hit his first home run in six weeks as Atlanta reduced its magic number for clinching a record 12th straight division title to three with a victory over Montreal on Monday.

Horacio Ramirez (11-4) won his third straight decision for Atlanta, which got its major league-leading 94th victory and moved 10 games ahead of idle Florida in the National League East. Ramirez allowed seven hits and two runs in seven innings.

Fick hit a three-run homer off Livan Hernandez (15-9) in the second for his first home run since July 27, when he connected twice against the Expos in a 13-10 loss in Montreal.

Cubs 4, Mets 1

CHICAGO — Matt Clement matched his career high with his 13th victory as Chicago gained ground in the NL Central race.

Randall Simon had two RBIs for Chicago, which pulled within 1½ games of first-place Houston, which was idle. The Mets lost for the 10th time in 11 games.

Clement (13-11) has been bothered by a strained groin since he got hit in the calf during his Sept. 3 start. New York managed just three infield singles against him in seven innings, and the only run he allowed was unearned. Joe Borowski earned his 29th save.

Jeremy Griffiths (1-3) gave up four runs — three earned — and six hits in four innings.

Cardinals 11, Brewers 2

ST. LOUIS — Brett Tomko allowed six hits over eight innings and drove in three runs as St. Louis snapped a four-game losing streak.

Tomko (13-8) went 2-for-4, including a two-run single in the second and an RBI single in the third, as the Cardinals moved within five games of idle Houston in the NL Central.

Albert Pujols hit his 42nd home run,

leaving him tied with Barry Bonds for the NL lead. Jim Edmonds also homered for the Cardinals, who scored seven times in the first three innings off Wes Obermueller (0-5).

Tomko didn't allow a baserunner until Keith Ginter homered with one out in the fourth. Bill Hall also homered leading off the sixth.

Pirates 6, Reds 3

PITTSBURGH — Matt Stairs hit a three-run homer in support of Ryan Vogelsong's first major league victory as Pittsburgh beat Cincinnati.

Vogelsong (1-1) scattered three hits over five innings in his third start of the season. The right-hander was 0-6 in 22 previous major league appearances, including four starts.

Julian Tavarez pitched a perfect ninth for his eighth save in 11 chances as the Pirates won for the fifth time in eight games.

Todd Van Poppel (0-1) allowed five runs — all with two outs — in six innings.

Giants 8, Padres 7

SAN FRANCISCO — Barry Bonds hit his 655th career home run and reached a milestone in walks as San Francisco rallied to beat San Diego.

Bonds connected for a solo shot off Brian Lawrence in the first inning for his 42nd homer of the season. The slugger is five shy of tying his godfather, Willie Mays, for third on the career list at 660.

Hank Aaron leads that list with 755, followed by Babe Ruth at 714. Bonds is tied with St. Louis' Albert Pujols for most in the NL, one behind major league leader Alex Rodriguez of Texas.

Pinch-runner Pedro Feliz scored the go-ahead run on a wild pitch by Jay Witasick (3-5) with two outs in the eighth, capping a crazy comeback.

Joe Nathan (10-4) retired the only batter he faced for the victory, and Tim Worrell pitched the ninth for his 34th save.

From The Associated Press

Scores/standings

American League

East Division				GB
W	L	Pct	GB	
New York	93	57	.620	—
Boston	87	62	.584	5½
Toronto	76	73	.510	16½
Baltimore	67	82	.450	25½
Tampa Bay	59	90	.396	33½

Central Division				GB
W	L	Pct	GB	
Minnesota	81	69	.540	—
Chicago	80	69	.537	½
Kansas City	77	72	.517	3½
Cleveland	65	86	.430	16½
Detroit	38	111	.255	42½

West Division				GB
W	L	Pct	GB	
Oakland	91	60	.603	—
Seattle	86	64	.573	4½
Anaheim	71	80	.470	20
Texas	66	84	.440	24½

Monday's games

Boston 8, Tampa Bay 2
N.Y. Yankees 13, Baltimore 1
Minnesota 13, Cleveland 6
Kansas City 10, Detroit 4
Texas 6, Seattle 4
Oakland 7, Anaheim 4

National League

East Division				GB
W	L	Pct	GB	
Atlanta	94	57	.623	—
Florida	83	66	.557	10
Philadelphia	82	68	.547	11½
Montreal	76	75	.503	18
New York	63	86	.423	30

Central Division				GB
W	L	Pct	GB	
Houston	81	68	.544	—
Chicago	80	70	.533	1½
St. Louis	77	74	.510	5
Pittsburgh	69	80	.463	12
Cincinnati	64	86	.427	17½
Milwaukee	64	86	.427	17½

West Division				GB
W	L	Pct	GB	
San Francisco	91	57	.615	—
Los Angeles	80	68	.541	11
Arizona	77	73	.513	15
Colorado	68	82	.453	24
San Diego	59	90	.396	32½

Monday's games

Atlanta 10, Montreal 6
Pittsburgh 6, Cincinnati 3
Chicago Cubs 4, N.Y. Mets 1

St. Louis 11, Milwaukee 2
San Francisco 8, San Diego 7

NFL

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

East				Pct	PF	PA
W	L	T	Pct			
Buffalo	2	0	0	1.000	69	17
Miami	1	1	0	.500	41	31
New England	1	1	0	.500	31	41
N.Y. Jets	0	2	0	.000	23	37

South				Pct	PF	PA
W	L	T	Pct			
Indianapolis	2	0	0	1.000	42	13
Houston	1	1	0	.500	31	51
Tennessee	1	1	0	.500	32	53
Jacksonville	0	2	0	.000	40	62

North				Pct	PF	PA
W	L	T	Pct			
Baltimore	1	1	0	.500	48	47
Pittsburgh	1	1	0	.500	54	56
Cincinnati	0	2	0	.000	30	53
Cleveland	0	2	0	.000	19	42

West				Pct	PF	PA
W	L	T	Pct			
Denver	2	0	0	1.000	67	23
Kansas City	2	0	0	1.000	68	34
Oakland	1	1	0	.500	43	45
San Diego	0	2	0	.000	27	64

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

East				Pct	PF	PA
W	L	T	Pct			
Washington	2	0	0	1.000	49	44
Dallas	1	1	0	.500	48	59
N.Y. Giants	1	1	0	.500	55	48
Philadelphia	0	2	0	.000	10	48

South				Pct	PF	PA
W	L	T	Pct			
Carolina	2	0	0	1.000	36	32
Atlanta	1	1	0	.500	58	46
New Orleans	1	1	0	.500	41	37
Tampa Bay	1	1	0	.500	26	12

North				Pct	PF	PA
W	L	T	Pct			
Minnesota	2	0	0	1.000	54	38
Detroit	1	1	0	.500	48	55
Green Bay	1	1	0	.500	56	36
Chicago	0	2	0	.000	20	73

West				Pct	PF	PA
W	L	T	Pct			
Seattle	2	0	0	1.000	65	10
San Francisco	1	1	0	.500	73	34
St. Louis	1	1	0	.500	40	47
Arizona	0	2	0	.000	24	80

Monday's game

Dallas 35, N.Y. Giants 32, OT

From The Associated Press

Twins 13, Indians 6

CLEVELAND — Torii Hunter tied his career high with five RBIs as Minnesota defeated Cleveland on Monday and took sole possession of the American League Central lead for the first time since June 30.

Hunter, Michael Ryan and Cristian Guzman each drove in two runs during an eight-run sixth inning. Hunter added a three-run homer in the ninth of Terry Mulholland, giving him a career-high 99 RBIs.

Minnesota (81-69) moved a half-game ahead of idle Chicago (80-69). The defending AL Central champions, 37-20 since the All-Star break, begin a three-game series Tuesday at home against the White Sox.

Johan Santana (11-3) improved to 7-0 in nine starts since July 29 as the Twins won for the 10th time in 13 games.

Jason Davis (8-11) allowed seven runs and six hits in 5⅔ innings.

Red Sox 8, Devil Rays 2

BOSTON — Derek Lowe won his fifth straight decision, and Manny Ramirez and David Ortiz homered in another Boston slugging display as the Red Sox beat Tampa Bay.

The Red Sox increased their wild-card lead over Seattle to 1½ games. Boston trails New York by 5½ games in the AL East.

Ramirez and Ortiz also doubled for Boston, which has 605 extra-base hits, two short of the major league record Seattle set in 1996.

Lowe (16-6) started with 4⅔ hitless

innings against the team he no-hit on April 27 last year in Fenway Park. With the Devil Rays chasing his sinker, Lowe allowed four hits in eight innings.

Lowe is 5-0 in his past seven starts.

Ortiz's 27th homer — his 11th in 23 games — put Boston ahead 1-0 in the second against Jorge Sosa (5-11), and Ramirez's 34th made it 6-2 in the seventh.

Rangers 6, Mariners 4

ARLINGTON, Texas — Rafael Palmeiro and Mark Teixeira homered as Texas ended a five-game losing streak and dropped Seattle farther back in the AL wild-card race, beating the Mariners.

The Mariners fell 1½ games behind Boston. Seattle fell 4½ games behind Oakland, which beat Anaheim, in the AL West.

Palmeiro's shot made him just the second player in major league history to reach 35 homers and 100 RBIs in nine straight seasons.

Hall of Famer Jimmie Foxx is the only other player to do it.

Palmeiro's 525th career homer came in the fourth inning off Joel Pineiro (14-11) and gave him 103 RBIs.

Teixeira, who tied a career-high with four RBIs, capped a four-run sixth inning with a three-run shot. His 23rd home run helped the Rangers erase a 4-2 deficit.

Colby Lewis (8-9) gave up four runs in six innings to earn the victory. Fran-

cisco Cordero struck out the side in the ninth for his 14th save in 23 opportunities.

Royals 10, Tigers 4

DETROIT — Detroit became the first AL team to lose 111 games since the 1939 St. Louis Browns, dropping to Kansas City as Joe Randa drove in five runs.

The Tigers lost their third in a row after winning the series opener.

At 38-111, Detroit has the most defeats in the majors since the 1965 New York Mets lost 112 times.

The Tigers need five victories in their final 13 games to avoid matching the modern-day record of 120 losses, set by the 1962 Mets.

Randa tied a career high for RBIs. He hit a three-run homer in the ninth and Aaron Guiel homered later in the inning.

Raul Ibanez had three hits and scored three times and Brent Mayne homered for the Royals.

Brian Anderson (12-11) improved to 3-0 against the Tigers this year, with the first two victories coming with Cleveland. Gary Knotts (3-7) took the loss.

Yankees 13, Orioles 1

BALTIMORE — Alfonso Soriano went 4-for-5 with two home runs, and Aaron Boone also connected twice to lead a six-homer attack that carried New York past Baltimore.

Soriano set the tone by driving the first pitch of the game into the left-field seats against Rodrigo Lopez (7-10).

Jason Giambi and Enrique Wilson homered for the Yankees, who stayed 5½ games ahead of Boston in the AL East. The six homers were a season-high.

Jorge Posada drove in three runs, and Hideki Matsui became only the third Yankee rookie to amass 100 RBIs, joining Joe DiMaggio (125 in 1936) and Tony Lazzeri (114 in 1926).

Andy Pettitte (19-8) allowed one run in six innings to improve to 5-0 against the Orioles this season.

The Orioles' fifth loss in six games assured them of a team-record sixth straight losing season.

Athletics 7, Angels 4

ANAHEIM, Calif. — Miguel Tejada hit a grand slam as Oakland beat Anaheim to win its seventh in a row and open a 4½-game lead in the AL West.

Ted Lilly (11-9) pitched five innings of one-hit ball for Oakland, which took its biggest lead of the season a few hours after second-place Seattle lost 6-4 at Texas.

Tejada's second grand slam of the season — and seventh of his career — came on a 3-2 pitch from Ramon Ortiz (15-12) during a six-run outburst in the fourth inning.

Keith Foulke got three outs — including Robb Quinlan's pop fly to first with the bases loaded and two outs in the ninth — for his 43rd save.

From The Associated Press

American League